

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESCAP

SUBJECT: POSITION OF US DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO ESCAP

REF: STATE 169366

1. MAJOR COUNTRY STAFFING OF DAY-TO-DAY ESCAP LIAISON FUNCTION
VARIES FROM THREE OFFICERS TO NONE. TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF
OFFICERS AND PERCENTAGE OF TIME DEVOTED FOLLOWS:

AUSTRALIA - TWO FULL TIME

CHINA - NONE

FRANCE - ONE FULL TIME

INDIA - TWO FULL TIME

ONE TEN PERCENT

INDONESIA - ONE FULL TIME

ONE FIFTY PERCENT

JAPAN - TWO FULL TIME

1 FIFTY PERCENT

KOREA - ONE FULL TIME

ONE FIFTY PERCENT

NETHERLANDS - TWO FULL TIME

NEW ZEALAND - ONE FULL TIME

PHILIPPINES - TWO FIFTY PERCENT

THAILAND - TWO FIFTY PERCENT

ONE TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT

USSR - THREE FULL TIME

UK - ONE SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT

ONE FIFTY PERCENT

ONE TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT

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US - ONE FULL TIME

2. WITH CREATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (ACPR) IN EARLY 1974, INCREASING ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON GETTING DEVELOPING REGIONAL COUNTRIES TO UPGRADE THEIR ESCAP LIAISON STAFFS AND PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE FULL TIME LIAISON OFFICER IN LINE WITH THOSE OF NON-REGIONAL OR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW MAINLY BECAUSE OF BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS.

3. PRC HAS ATTENDED ONLY LAST THREE ESCAP PLENARY SESSIONS BUT NEVER A COMMITTEE MEETING NOR HAS IT PARTICIPATED IN ACPR EVEN SINCE EMBASSY WAS ESTABLISHED IN BANGKOK LAST OCTOBER. NEVERTHELESS, IT MANAGED TO GET ITS NEGATIVE VIEWS REGARDING HONG KONG AND SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN ASIAN PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY ACCEPTED WITHOUT DIRECT DAY-TO-DAY PARTICIPATION.

4. IF DEPARTMENT DECIDES FOREGO US PARTICIPATION IN THIS REGIONAL UN ORGANIZATION, WHICH IT HELPED CREATE IN 1947, IT SHOULD CUT ITS TIES COMPLETELY AND CEASE ALL REPRESENTATIONAL ACTIVITIES (I.E. ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE AND PLENARY SESSIONS WITH CONCOMITANT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, PERSONNEL ACTIVITIES UNDER E.O. 10422, SECTION 8 AND DOCUMENTATION DISTRIBUTION). OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR TTPI REPRESENTATION SHOULD ALSO BE MADE. HOWEVER, OTHER US DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES STILL INTERESTED IN ESCAP ACTIVITIES COULD MAINTAIN CONTACTS BY DIRECT CORRESPONDENCE WITH DIVISION CHIEFS. THIS WOULD APPLY ESPECIALLY TO COMMERCE, MARAD, DOT, USGS, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, BUREAU OF CENSUS AND OMB. ACTIVITIES OF AID/OLAB COULD CONTINUE THROUGH RED.

5. TO DO A SATISFACTORY REPRESENTATIONAL AND SUBSTANTIVE JOB REQUIRES AT LEAST ONE OFFICER TO IMMERSE HIMSELF FULL TIME IN THE UN SEA OF WORDS AND ACRONYMS. INTERMITTENT PARTIAL COVERAGE OF ESCAP AFFAIRS WOULD ONLY LEAD TO CONFUSION, WASTE AND EVENTUAL EMBARRASSMENT TO US POSITION THAT COULD BECOME INCREASINGLY OUT OF TOUCH WITH ASIAN REALITY. EITHER YOU REPRESENT US IN CONTINUOUS, MEANINGFUL PROFESSIONAL MANNER OR YOU DON'T. THERE IS NO HALFWAY HOUSE.
WHITEHOUSE

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